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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 732
By Winningham

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Joe Sims and the 1997-1998 Celina High School girls' basketball team on reaching the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament semifinal round.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is proud to specially recognize athletic teams whose extraordinary achievements are a source of pride for their school, their community and their families; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding 1997-1998 Celina High School girls' basketball team has clearly been one such exemplary team, reaching the semifinal round of the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Class A State Tournament; and

WHEREAS, Celina was runner-up in tough Tri-Lakes Conference competition, with a conference record of 9-3; and

WHEREAS, the regular season highlights included wins over Class AA Jackson County and some of the top Class A teams in the state, including Red Boiling Springs, Clarkrange, Pickett County, Upperman and Gordonsville; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Bulldogs finished third in the District 7A Tournament with victories over Monterey 76-42 and Clarkrange 82-72; and

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WHEREAS, they next captured the coveted Region 4A Tournament by beating Van Buren 66-44 in the quarterfinals, Upperman 69-60 in the semifinals and Gordonsville, ranked number four in the state, 70-58, in the title game; and

WHEREAS, in the crucial substate game, Celina overwhelmed Chattanooga Christian 67-44, to gain their sixth state tournament berth in the last seven years; and

WHEREAS, in the state quarterfinal round game, Celina defeated Oneida 58-42; and

WHEREAS, they finished their highly memorable season with a sterling 24-11 overall record; and

WHEREAS, this talented team was ranked among the top ten teams in the state the entire season; and

WHEREAS, their powerful offense averaged 60.4 points per game and their stingy 1-3-1 defense gave up a mere 48.8 points per game; and

WHEREAS, the Lady Bulldogs set a school record by hitting a phenomenal 202 three-pointers, breaking last year's school record of 198; and

WHEREAS, Coach Joe Sims, who has previously taken Celina to the state tournament in 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1997, and is a valued member of the TACA All-Star Selection Committee, was honored with the prestigious Region 4A Coaches Award; and

WHEREAS, sensational senior point guard, Amanda Kendell, who had enviable career totals of more than 1,000 points, 500 assists, 600 rebounds and 400 steals, was named a Tennessee Secondary Athletic Association Class A Miss Basketball finalist, was selected to the Tennessee Sports Writers All-State team, Associated Press All-State first team, All-Midstate first team, District 7A All-Tournament team, Tri-Lakes Conference Most Valuable Player Award, the TACA All-Star team, and received the Region 4A Tournament Most Valuable Player Award; and

WHEREAS, super senior forward Tara Ashlock, who had more than 1,000 career points and 750 rebounds, was named to the All-State Tournament team, the All-Midstate team, the All-

Region 4A Tournament team, the All-District 7A Tournament team and the All-Tri-Lakes Conference second team; and

WHEREAS, senior guard Michelle Chambers, who set school records with 90 three-pointers in a single season and 188 career three-pointers, made the All-State Tournament team, the All-Region 4A Tournament team, and the All-Tri-Lakes Conference first team; and

WHEREAS, the other starters were senior forward Crystal Price and junior center Trinity Weddle, both of whom were All-Tri-Lakes Conference Honorable Mention; and

WHEREAS, the top reserves were senior guard Amber Isenberg and junior forward Amanda Thompson, both of whom were named All-Tri-Lakes Conference Honorable Mention and sophomore guard Courtney Cross; and

WHEREAS, other team members included junior forward Erica Melton, sophomore guard Dana Key, sophomore forward Cera Burnette, sophomore center Claudia Bailey, sophomore guard Jessica Price and freshman forward Natasha Wright, each of whom contributed to the success the team enjoyed this season; and

WHEREAS, Coach Sims' staff included scorekeeper Courtney Walker, statistician Tanna Carmack, shot chart keeper Rhonda White, video technician James Bane, public address announcer Darrell Collins and trainer Steve Moore, each of whom did an admirable job performing their various duties; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that we pause in our deliberations to salute the team on its numerous accomplishments, a team which has been a tremendous credit to Tennessee high school athletics, its school and its community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we honor and congratulate Coach Joe Sims and the 1997-1998 Celina High School girls' basketball team and wish them well in their future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That duly inscribed copies of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the school and each person named above, with this final clause omitted from such copies.